

# James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area Idea Gathering Stage Public Input Summary



James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area

Missouri Department of Conservation  
December 2014



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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) is seeking public input as we develop and revise conservation area management plans.
- The James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area is a 3,084-acre area containing forest, grassland, old field, crop land, lakes/ponds, wetland and glade habitat. The area also has 12 fishable lakes and ponds, ranging from 1 to 42 acres and totaling more than 250 acres. It is one of nearly 1,000 conservation areas owned or managed by the Missouri Department of Conservation. Conservation areas support the Department's mission by offering places to restore and conserve fish, forest and wildlife resources, and providing opportunity for all citizens to use, enjoy and learn about these resources. Conservation areas are different from state or local parks that may place a greater emphasis on team sports, recreational activities or social gatherings.
- MDC conducted a public involvement idea gathering phase (September 1-November 30, 2014) to gather input as staff begins to develop a 10-year management plan for James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area.
- During this time period (September 1-November 30, 2014), we heard 71 comments from 68 respondents.
- Twenty attendees participated in the James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area Open House November 5, 2014.
- Common themes heard during this idea gathering stage included comments regarding trails, suggestions for more frequent mowing around lakes, requests to allow canoes, kayaks and other watercraft, and general appreciation for the area.
- The James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area planning team will take comments into consideration as they draft a 10-year area management plan. The draft plan will be available online (likely summer 2015) for a month-long comment period at [mdc.mo.gov/areaplans](http://mdc.mo.gov/areaplans).

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **Public Comment on Conservation Area Management Plans**

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) wants to know what Missourians think about its nearly 1,000 conservation areas around the state. MDC is in the multi-year process of updating management plans for conservation areas and invites public comments. To preview draft management plans and share comments online, visit [mdc.mo.gov/areaplans](http://mdc.mo.gov/areaplans).

MDC conservation areas cover almost 1 million public acres for the purpose of restoring and conserving forest, fish and wildlife resources, and for providing opportunities for all citizens to use, enjoy and learn about these resources. Most Missourians are within a 30-minute drive of an MDC conservation area.

Missourians care about conservation and use conservation areas for many different reasons. These areas help people discover nature through various activities, and help make Missouri a great place to hunt, fish and enjoy other outdoor activities. We want to know how conservation areas are important to Missourians. Encouraging public comments on Conservation Area Management Plans is part of MDC's ongoing efforts of working for and with Missourians to sustain healthy forests, fish and wildlife.

Conservation Area Management Plans focus on natural resource management and public use on conservation areas. The plans do not address regulations on hunting, fishing and other area uses, which are set by the Conservation Commission and enforced under the Wildlife Code of Missouri. MDC will consider all ideas received and will work to balance the issues and interests identified with the responsibility of managing areas for the present and future benefits to forest, fish, wildlife, and people. Decisions on which ideas to incorporate into area plans and on how to best incorporate them will be based on the property's purpose, its physical and biological conditions and capabilities, the best roles of the property in its local, regional and statewide context, and on the professional expertise of MDC staff.

Questions? Please contact MDC Public Involvement Coordinator Amy Buechler at 573-522-4115 x3252, or [amy.buechler@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:amy.buechler@mdc.mo.gov).

## **James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area**

The James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area is located in Jackson County, south of Highway 50, near Lee's Summit. This wildlife area was established in 1952 when Mrs. Nell Reed donated 731 acres of land to the Missouri Department of Conservation in memory of her husband, Senator James A. Reed. Additional tracts were purchased using federal monies and Department funds to bring the area to its present 3,084 acres.

Development of the area and lake construction began in 1957. Over 250 acres of water have been impounded to form 12 lakes, ranging in size from 1 to 42 acres. Most lakes contain largemouth bass, channel catfish, crappie, bluegill, green sunfish, redear sunfish and bullheads. Striped bass hybrids have been stocked in several of the lakes. The area also has numerous small ponds.

Woodlands, native grass plantings, shrub plantings, and crop fields are managed to provide year-round food for wildlife. Giant Canada geese nest and winter at the James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area. The area also supports good numbers of deer.

This wildlife area was acquired, developed, and is managed in part through the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act and the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) conducted a public involvement idea gathering phase (September 1-November 30, 2014) to gather input as staff begins to develop a 10-year management plan for James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area. The plan, once drafted, will be posted online ([mdc.mo.gov/areaplans](http://mdc.mo.gov/areaplans)) for further public comment.

## **Public Involvement**

The idea gathering phase for development of the James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area Management Plan ran from September 1-November 30, 2014. The objective of this phase was to inform stakeholders about the area planning process and ask them to share their ideas. To communicate about this comment period, staff:

- Developed posters and brochures about the James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area idea gathering phase and displayed/distributed to Kansas City Regional Office, Burr Oak Woods and the Anita B Gorman Discovery Center Information.
- Online comment form available at [mdc.mo.gov/areaplans](http://mdc.mo.gov/areaplans).
- News release sent to local media outlets in September and October, and posted on Missouri Department of Conservation Facebook page. News release was carried in the Kansas City Star October 30, 2014.
- Posters, comment cards and flyers provided to participants during the managed dove hunts and deer hunts at the James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area.
- Provided a booth at the Discover Nature: Families in the Outdoors Day with poster, comment cards on National Hunting and Fishing Day.
- Provided information at two speaking engagements with non-governmental organizations (NGOs).
- Article included in the November/December Kansas City Region Nature and You Newsletter. Article emailed to mailing list, printed and provided to the public and multiple offices and posted on MDC website.
- Interview and article in the Lee's Summit Journal.
- Sent announcement of Area Plans email list.
- Sent mail, email and door hangers to: neighboring landowners, NGOs and local government offices.
- James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area Open House November 5th, 2014.

## **Next steps**

The area planning team will take comments into consideration as they draft a 10-year management plan for James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area. The draft area management plan will be available online (likely summer 2015) for a month-long comment period at [mdc.mo.gov/areaplans](http://mdc.mo.gov/areaplans). After that comment period, the plan will be finalized, and the final plan posted online.

## DEMOGRAPHIC SUMMARY OF RESPONDENTS

### Who responded?

From September 1-November 30, 2014, we received 71 comments from 68 respondents for the James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area Idea Gathering Stage.

Table 1. Total number of respondents commenting during the idea gathering phase (September 1-November 30, 2014) by respondent category.

<b>Organization Type</b>	<b>Respondents</b>
<b>Individual citizens</b> (no affiliation listed)	62
<b>Non-governmental Organizations</b> (Heart of America Aquarium Society, Heart of America Fly Fishers, Kansas City Northland Fly Fishing Club; Missouri Trout Fishing Association; Boroughs Audubon; Kansas City Retriever Club; Show-me Missouri Backcountry Horsemen)	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>68</b>

### How they responded

Table 2. Total number of each response type received.

<b>Response Type</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Web Comment Form	43
Hard Copy Comment Form	16
Open House Comment	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>71</b>

### Where respondents are from

Table 3. Total number of responses categorized by each respondent's location.

<b>State</b>	<b>Respondents</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Missouri	66	97%
California	1	1.5%
Kansas	1	1.5%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>100%</b>



**Map of all respondent locations by ZIP code.**

★ = James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area

The pinpoints below represent the central point of ZIP codes from which a public comment was received (they do not represent actual street addresses). Shaded circles with numbers show multiple responses from a geographic area. Not all respondents provided ZIP codes.

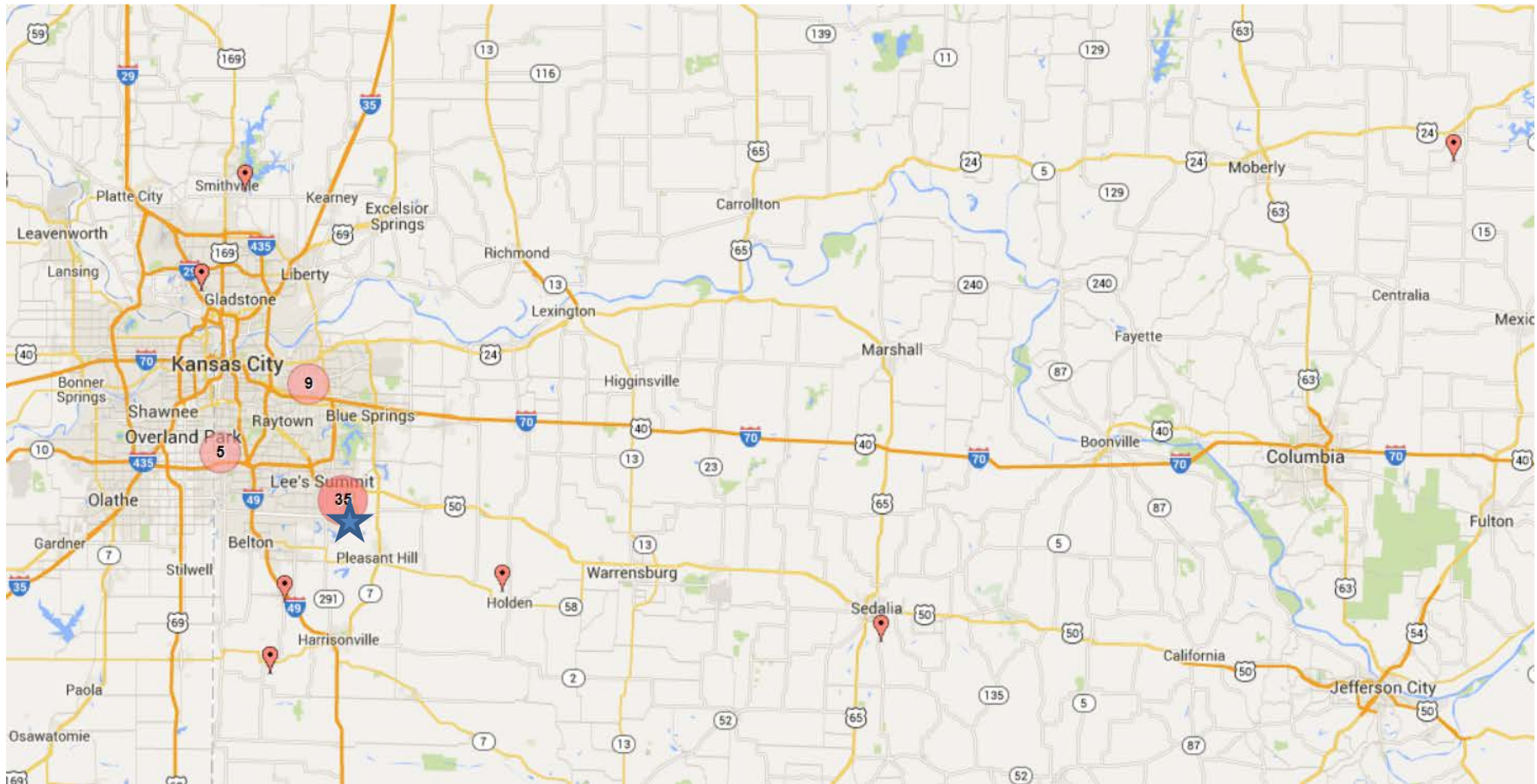




**Map of Missouri respondent locations by ZIP code.**

★ = James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area

The pinpoints below represent the central point of ZIP codes from which a public comment was received (they do not represent actual street addresses). Shaded circles with numbers show multiple responses from a geographic area. Not all respondents provided ZIP codes.







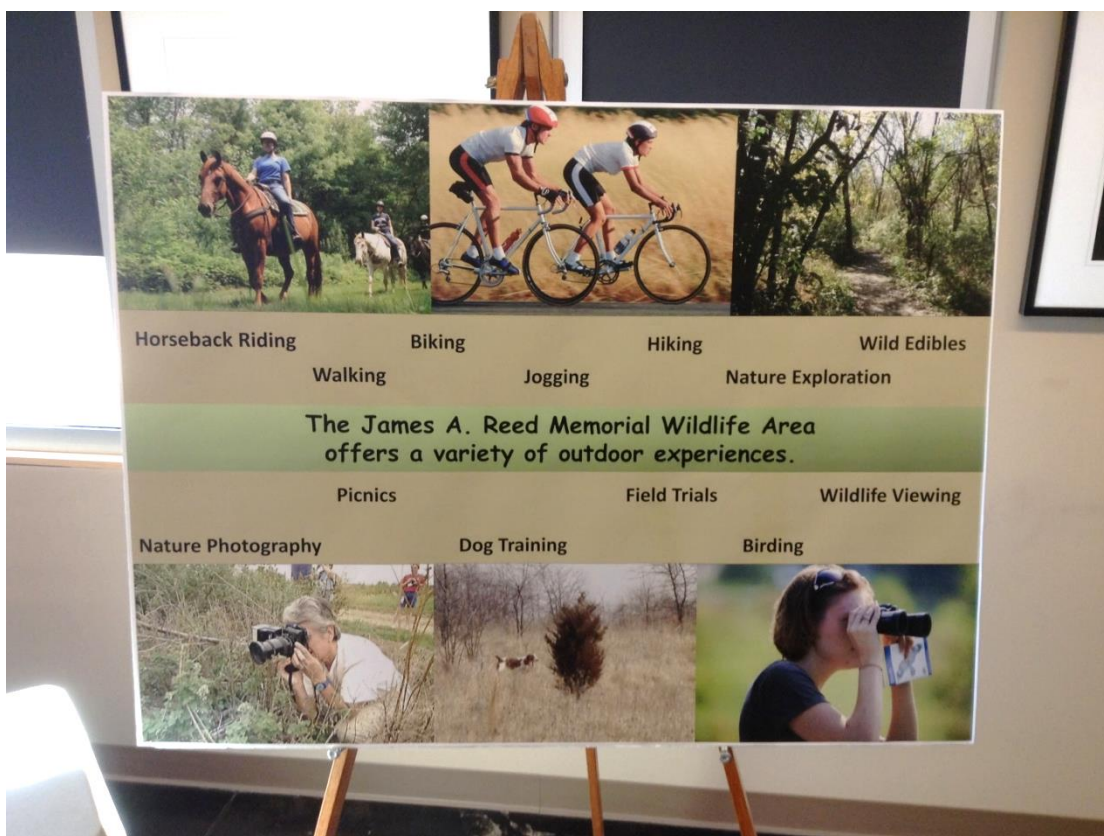
## Photos of James A. Reed Open House



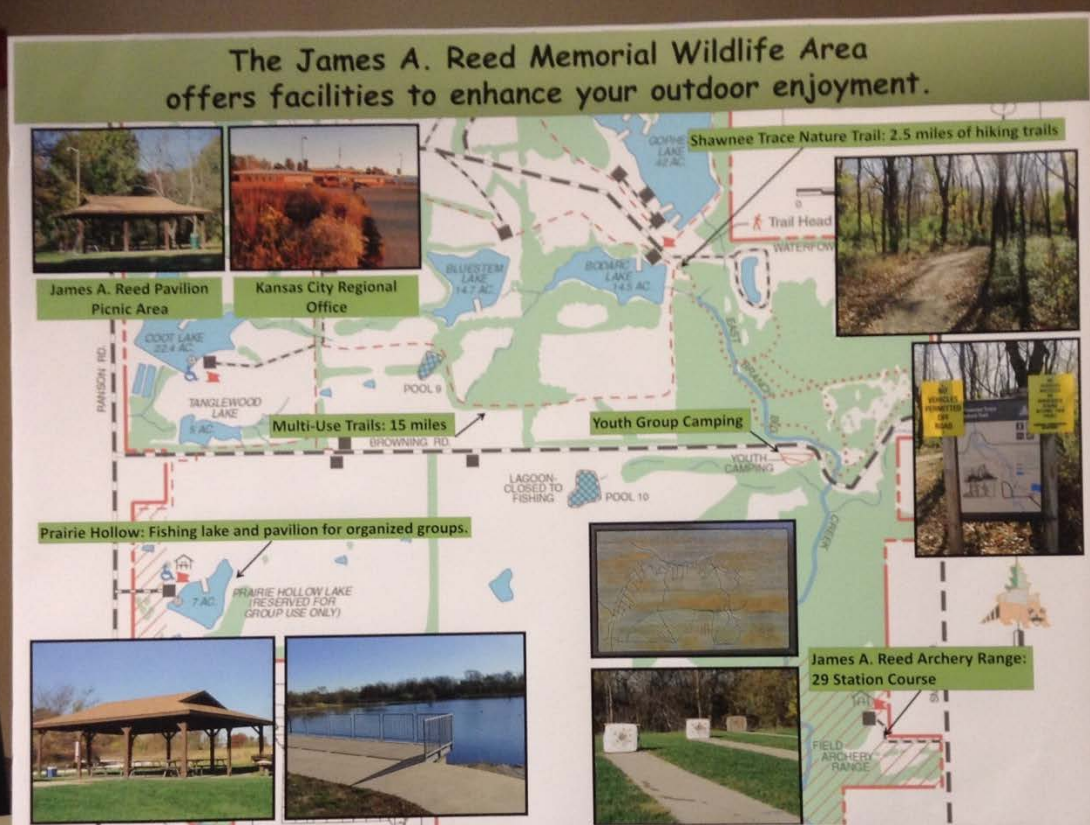
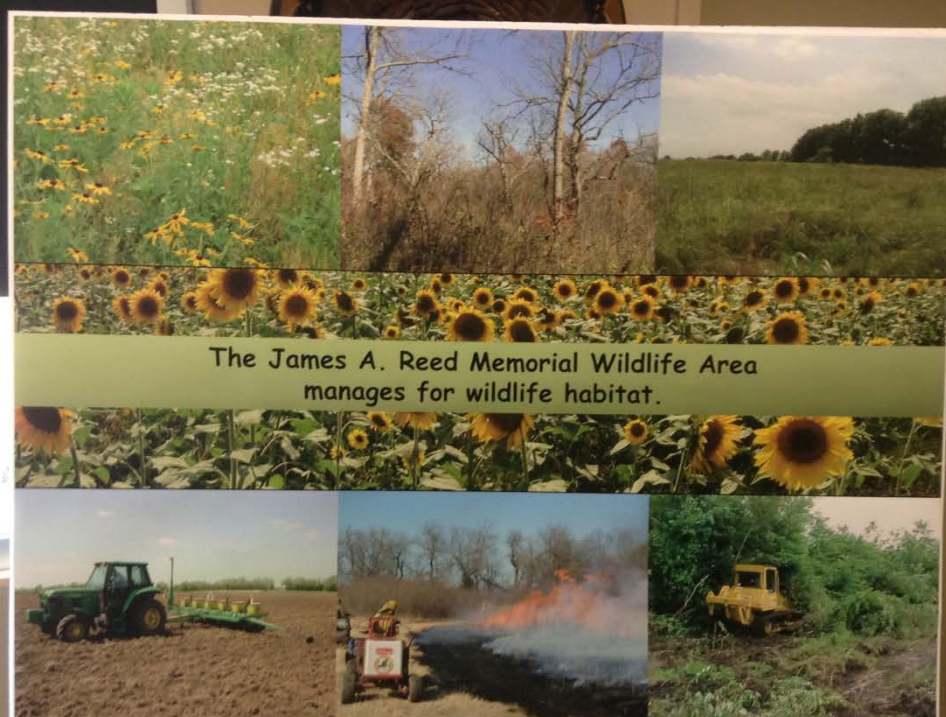




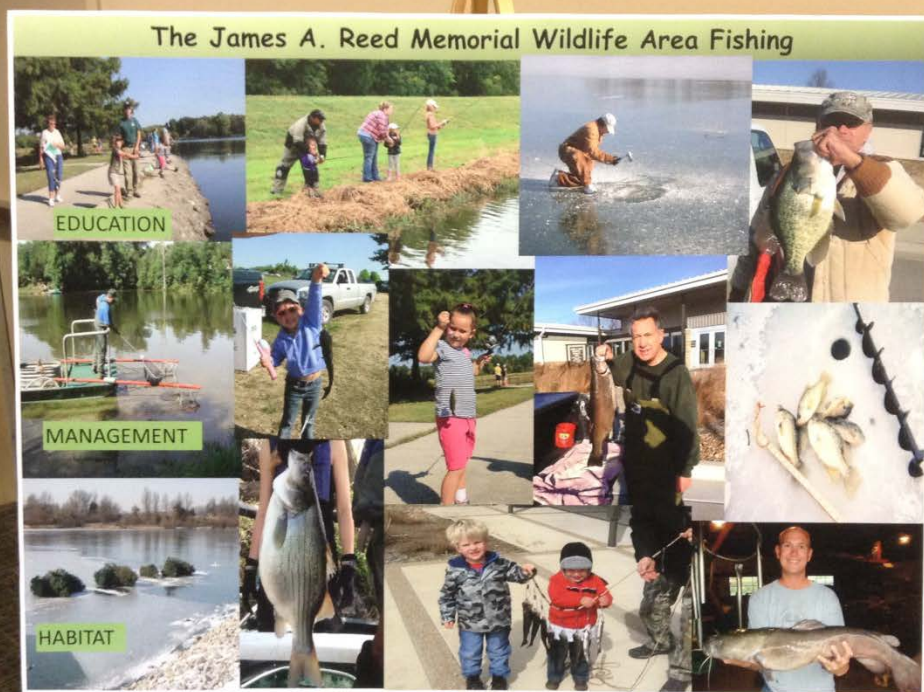


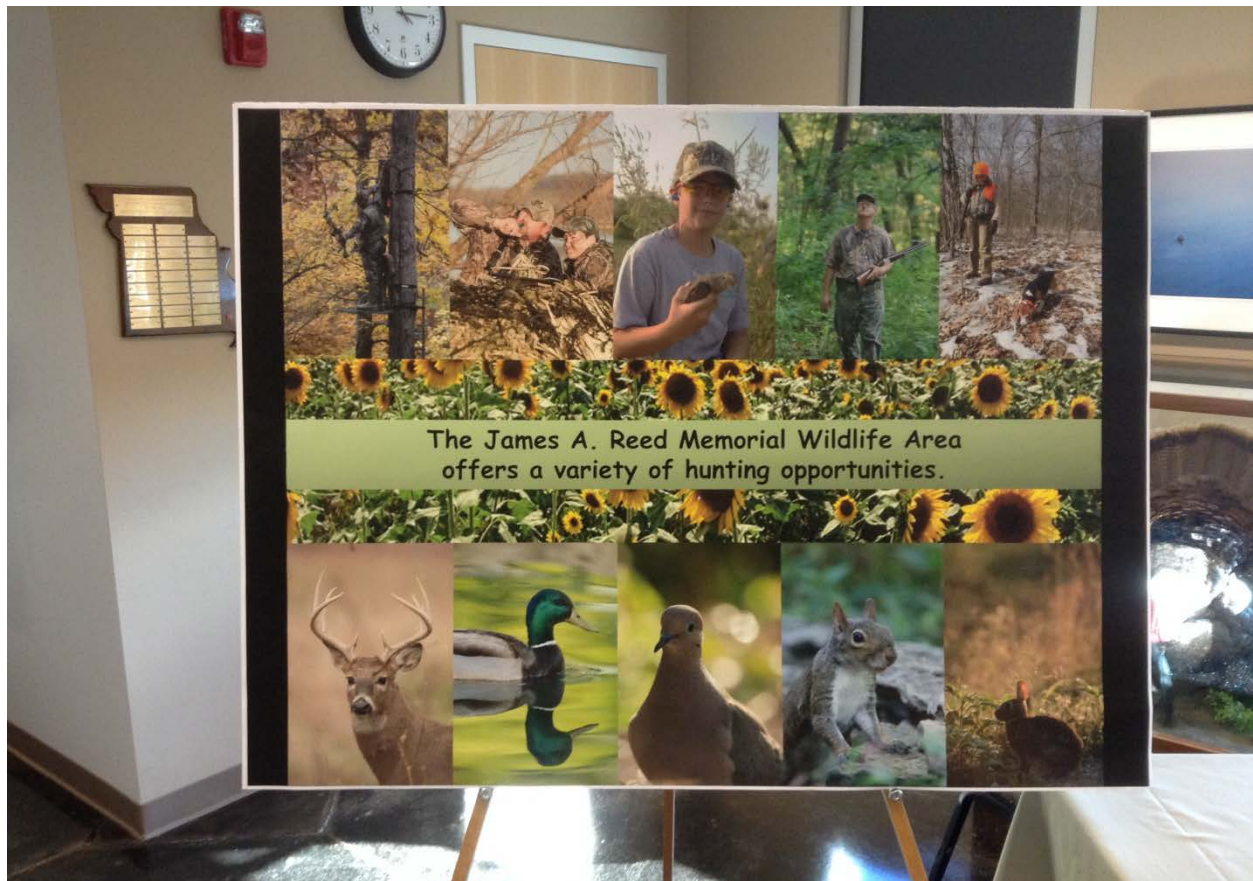














## **THEMES AND ISSUES IDENTIFIED THROUGH JAMES A. REED MEMORIAL WILDLIFE AREA IDEA GATHERING PHASE (September 1-November 30, 2014)**

The James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area Idea Gathering Stage was available for a public idea gathering period September 1 – November 30, 2014. The Missouri Department of Conservation received 71 comments from 68 respondents. A brief summary of public input themes can be found below. The area planning team will take comments into consideration as they draft a 10-year management plan for James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area. The draft area management plan will be available online (likely summer 2015) for a month-long comment period at [mdc.mo.gov/areaplans](http://mdc.mo.gov/areaplans). After that comment period, the plan will be finalized, and the final plan posted online.

### Terrestrial Resource Management

- Supports food plots for dove hunting.
- Opposes growing corn on area.
- Supports quail restoration on area. Suggests releasing quail and pheasants on area.
- Supports providing wetland habitat for shorebirds.
- Supports removing bushes along roadways to allow better wildlife viewing.
- Opposes tree harvesting (other than fallen trees on trails).

### Aquatic Resource Management

- Suggests reducing vegetation in lakes.
- Suggests stocking muskie, more redear.
- Suggests making one lake a trophy lake.
- Suggests feeding and restocking catfish lakes.

### Public Use Management

#### Field Trials

- Concern that area is no longer conducive for retriever training and field trials. Would like to see improvements similar to Busch Memorial Conservation Area.

#### Boats

- Suggests providing more boats for public use.
- Supports not allowing public boats on lakes.
- Suggests allowing kayaks, float tubes, canoes, kick boats and other human-powered watercraft on one or more lakes.
- Suggests allowing boats with trolling motors (with annual user fee permit).

### Horseback Riding

- Appreciates horseback riding trails. Suggests adding new horseback riding trails south of Browning Road.
- Suggests widening trail openings on Browning Ranson roads to allow more room for horses.
- Suggests adding horse crossing signs on Browning Road. Suggests moving trailhead on Browning Road closer to the cemetery.
- Suggests partnering with Show-Me Missouri Back Country Horsemen to maintain and improve equestrian trails.
- Suggests removing horse manure from roadways.

### Trails

- Suggests hosting or allowing a 5K run on area to draw non-traditional users.
- Suggests interpretive bird identification signs.
- Suggests more wooded trails. Suggests more non-paved hiking trails.
- Appreciates paved inner road for cycling.
- Suggests adding distance markers to trails or trail maps. Suggests updating trail map and trail markers.
- Suggests more multi-use trails for running, hiking, cycling and horseback riding.
- Opposes allowing mountain biking.
- Suggests keeping multi-use trails mowed.
- Suggests adding a connector trail to and along Ranson Road.
- Suggests adding a connector trail from Smart Road or Ranson Road to the waterfowl marsh.

### Roads

- Concern that too many drivers speed and drive recklessly in the area.
- Suggests redoing entrance so easier to see.

### Amenities

- Appreciates clean restrooms. Suggests a different lock type on privies so they don't get locked from the inside.
- Concern with amount of litter on area. Suggests adding trash and recycle bins at heavy-use locations. Suggests posting "No Littering" signs.
- Suggests on-site vendor to sell bait, gear, ice and concessions.
- Suggests more accessible portions of area for visitors with mobility disabilities.
- Suggests providing walk-in camping opportunities.
- Suggests allowing area access through former main entrance and utilizing old headquarters for area office.

### Fishing

- Suggests allowing occasional night fishing.
- Suggests special events for disabled accessible fishing from pontoon boats.

### Hunting

- Concern with seeing fewer doves and rabbits. Suggests prohibiting dove hunting until dove numbers increase.
- Supports continuing to allow hunting and fishing at area.
- Concerned about hunters' behaviors while hunting on this area.
- Suggests more youth-only fishing and hunting opportunities.
- Suggests banning lead shot for all shotgun hunting at area.
- Suggests allowing waterfowl hunting on area and adding goose pit blinds in fields and water blinds.
- Suggests allowing more deer hunting opportunities, including considering opening area for archery season.
- Suggests offering a morning managed deer hunt.
- Suggests closing area to other uses during managed hunts.

### Pets

- Appreciates allowing dogs on area.

### Archery Range

- Appreciates archery range. Suggests adding more shooting ranges.
- Suggests more frequent maintenance of archery targets.
- Concern archery range is near homes.
- Suggests gating and closing archery range entrance when area is closed to prevent vandalism.

### Administrative Considerations

- Suggests mowing grass near lakes more often and shorter.
- Suggests having office open on weekends.
- Suggests bringing a decommissioned fire tower to the Reed area.
- Suggests landscaping around building.
- Suggests organizing more volunteer opportunities for individuals, families and kids.
- Suggests more educational programming at area (youth and women hunting/fishing classes; guided interpretive hikes - birds, plant identification, etc.).
- General appreciation for area.

**“Wordle” visual summary created from all comments received. Prominently displayed words were used the most frequently in public comments.**





## APPENDICES

### Appendix 1. James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area Open House Flyer

# We Want to Hear From You!

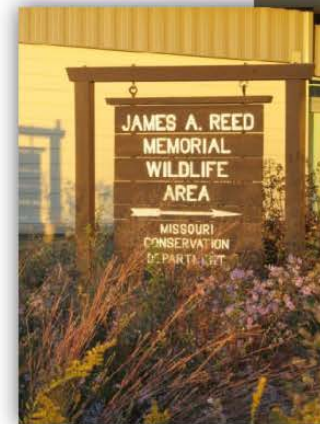
## James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area Open House

**Date:** Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2014

**Time:** 4pm to 8pm

**Location:** Kansas City Regional Office at the  
James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area

The public is invited to share ideas, comments, and suggestions with Missouri Department of Conservation staff. Staff will answer questions about management practices at the Reed Area or about conservation in general. Visitors will also be able to fill out comment cards.



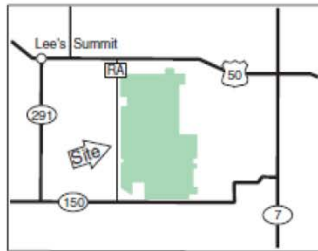
## Appendix 2. James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area Open House Brochure

### MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Kansas City Regional Office at the  
James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area  
12405 SE Ranson Rd.  
Lee's Summit, MO 64082

Phone: 816-622-0900

Fax: 816-622-0205



From Lee's Summit, take Highway 50 east  
1 mile, then SE Ranson Road (Route RA)  
south 0.75 mile to the area entrance.



### UNABLE TO JOIN US?

Comment online at:  
[mdc.mo.gov/areaplans](http://mdc.mo.gov/areaplans) or  
mail comments to: Amy  
Buechler, MDC, Policy Co-  
ordination, PO Box 180,  
Jefferson City, MO  
65102. Comment period  
closes November 30 .

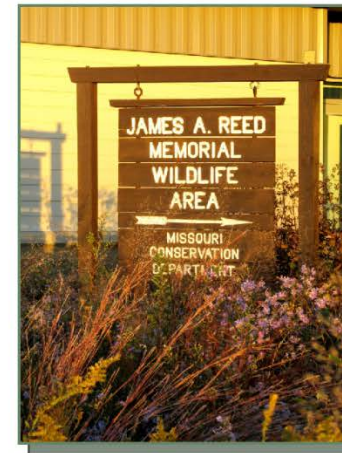


### James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area Open House



MISSOURI  
DEPARTMENT OF  
CONSERVATION

Serving nature and you



**Date:** Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2014

**Time:** 4pm to 8pm

**Location:** Kansas City Regional  
Office at the James A. Reed  
Memorial Wildlife Area

## We want to hear from you.....

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The public is invited to share ideas, comments, and suggestions with Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) staff at the open house.



Staff will answer questions about management practices at the Reed Area or about conservation in general. Visitors will also be able to fill out comment cards.

The Reed Area is celebrating more than 60 years offering Missourians hunting, fishing, hiking, birding and other outdoor recreation. Families often visit the area to look for wildlife, wet a line, or perhaps to shoot at the target archery range. The 3,084-acre area includes 12 lakes ranging in size from one acre to 42 acres. Horseback riders, bike riders,

and walkers utilize 15 miles of multi-use trails and hikers enjoy the beautiful views of the 2.5 mile Shawnee Trace Nature Trail.

### Conservation Area Management Plan

Conservation Area Management Plans focus on natural resource management and public use on conservation areas. The plans do not address regulations on hunting, fishing and other area uses, which are set by the Con-



servation Commission and enforced under the Wildlife Code of Missouri. MDC will consider all ideas received and will work to

balance the issues and interests identified with the responsibility of managing areas for the present and future benefits to forest, fish, wildlife, and people.

Decisions on which ideas to incorporate into area plans and on how to best incorporate them will be based on the property's purpose, its physical and biological conditions and capabilities, the best roles of property in its local, regional and state-wide context, and on the professional expertise of MDC staff.



### **Appendix 3. James A. Reed Open House Press Release**

## **MDC to host open house at Reed Memorial Wildlife Area**

### **Fishing at James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area**



News from the [Kansas City](#) region

Published on: Oct. 27, 2014

Posted by [Bill Graham](#)

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) wants to know your suggestions for the James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area in Lee's Summit. An open house for public comments on area management practices will be held 4 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 5, at MDC's Kansas City Regional Office, which is on the Reed Area at 12405 S.E. Ranson Road. Staff will answer questions about the area or about conservation in general. Visitors will also be able to fill out comment sheets.

MDC is in the multi-year process of updating management plans for almost 1,000 conservation areas throughout the state and invites public comments.

Public comment on plans for the Reed Area can be made now via Internet at <http://mdc.mo.gov/node/22681>. Also, public comment sheets are available at the front counter at the Kansas City Regional Office. The public comment period will remain open through Nov. 30.

Noted Kansas City business woman Nell Reed donated 731 acres to MDC in 1952 to begin the area. The donation was in memory of her husband James A. Reed, a former Kansas City mayor and U.S. senator. He had introduced her to hunting and fishing. MDC has used Department funds and federal monies to purchase additional tracts. The 3,084-acre area offers hiking, fishing, hunting, birding and other outdoor recreation. Anglers can fish in 12 lakes ranging in size from one acre to 42 acres. Information about the area is available at <http://on.mo.gov/1ADgDRq>.

For more information about Missouri's outdoors visit <http://www.mdc.mo.gov>.



## Appendix 4. Reed Wildlife Area Idea Gathering Stage Info Sheet

# Share your ideas about James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area

**Staff at the James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area are beginning to develop an area management plan for the next 10 years. We welcome your comments!**



This 3,084 acre wildlife area was established in 1952 when Mrs. Nell Reed donated land to the Missouri Department of Conservation in memory of her husband, Senator James A. Reed.

It is one of nearly 1,000 conservation areas owned or managed by the Missouri Department of Conservation. Conservation areas support the Department's mission by offering places to restore and conserve fish, forest, and wildlife resources, and providing opportunity for all citizens to use, enjoy, and learn about these resources. Conservation areas are different than state or local parks that may place a greater emphasis on team sports, recreational activities, or social gatherings.

### **What's a Conservation Area Management Plan?**

These plans document strategies for natural resource management and public use on conservation areas. Conservation area plans also help communicate an area's purpose and management direction to staff and interested citizens. Area management plans serve as a management plan for the property with a focus on terrestrial and aquatic resource management, public use management, and administrative considerations.

Missouri Department of Conservation staff will begin drafting the 10-year James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area Management Plan later this year, which will be available for an additional public comment period in coming months.

### **Why do you want my ideas now?**

This fall, we are working to gather ideas to help inform us when developing our draft area management plan. We would love to hear from visitors who care about and use the James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area.

**Questions?** Contact Amy Buechler, [amy.buechler@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:amy.buechler@mdc.mo.gov), 573-522-4115 x3252.

**Comment online at [mdc.mo.gov/areaplans](http://mdc.mo.gov/areaplans) or mail comments to: Amy Buechler, MDC, Policy Coordination, PO Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102. Comment period closes November 30.**



**Appendix 5. Reed Wildlife Area Open House Comment Form**

# SHARE YOUR *Comments*

## How is the James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area important to you?

**Personal Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Yes, I want to receive e-mail updates about the Reed Area Plan.

☐ Yes, I want to receive e-mail updates about other conservation area plans.

Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

**Your ideas**

The James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area is beginning to develop an area management plan for the next 10 years. To help inform this effort, we welcome your ideas about the management of Reed Memorial Wildlife Area!

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*Serving nature and you®*

(Continued on back)

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

**Thank you for your comments!** We hope to hear from a broad range of public interests and will listen and consider all ideas. Decisions on which ideas to incorporate into the conservation area plan and on how to best incorporate them will be based on the property's purpose, its physical and biological conditions and capabilities, available financial and staffing resources, the best role of the property in its local, regional and state-wide context, and on the professional expertise of Department staff.

**Leave in comment box or mail to:** Amy Buechler, MDC, Policy Coordination, PO Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102 (postmark by November 29). You can also comment online at [mdc.mo.gov/areaplans](http://mdc.mo.gov/areaplans). Comment period closes November 30.

**Appendix 6. Comments received at James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area Open House**  
(November 5, 2014)

<p>Dog Parks are popular and you have the largest one in the area. 5k runs are also a big draw. Do a "Nature Run" or something similar. Both of these may draw people who otherwise would not consider coming here.</p>
<p>I think the horseback riding trails are kept up pretty well! I would like to see some new trails made. Why are we not allowed to ride on the acreage south of Browning? Why must we go behind the dams of the lakes instead of on top of the dams especially the more isolated lakes? Thank you!</p>
<p>Need more boats on some lakes. Grass cut near the lake more often. Have someone here on the weekend. The rest rooms are clean.</p>
<p>We spend lots of time on the property and are very happy with it!</p>
<p>I enjoy spending time at JAR, fishing with my kids, archery, and hunting. The property is well taken care of and I'm happy to have it in my backyard here in Lee's Summit. I was, though, VERY disappointed when you took away the weekend hours of office operation. Like most working folks my best time to go enjoy the outdoors is on the weekend. I was able to bring my young children in to see the displays of mounted wildlife and live fish. My kids are older now but I feel many parents would love to be able to educate their kids about conservation as I have. PLEASE open up your hours to weekend operation. Another benefit enjoyed is being able to purchase licenses and get first hand information from the JAR staff. I was on the archery hunt this year and I know it was very difficult for hunters to be able to get stand locations mailed without having to miss work. This leads to some conflicts of stand locations which is unfortunate. Overall I think this is a great facility. P.S. A little more mowing would be nice! :)</p>
<p>I began training retrievers and trialing at Reed since about 1982. In 1990-1991 I was president of the Kansas City Retriever Club. During those years we would have club trials 4 to 5 times per year with 75 to 125 participants here at Reed. We also would hold licensed trials twice a year at Reed. I believe these activities had been occurring here since Reed was first chartered, and were consistent with Reed's wishes and the land grant to encourage dog training. I was out of field trials and dog training for about 20 years while my wife and I raised our daughters. Recently, I returned to the retriever hobby. I was disappointed to see the drop off in participants, especially younger people, and the lack of good training and trialing grounds near Kansas City. I am told by other folks still trialing, and brief visual observations seem to confirm, that the Reed grounds are no longer conducive to training and trialing retrievers. I just had a good conversation with Mr. Bredesen with whom I was very impressed. He expressed empathy for the situation and explained the changes that have occurred over time, as well as showing me a map of training areas and where they are open to training. I am encouraged by the changes occurring at the Busch Wildlife Area in Weldon Springs, Mo., and hope the same kind of open dialogue and changes there could occur here and group retriever training and trialing here at Reed. The retriever sport and hunting locally need it, and the original intent of the land grant at Reed would be promoted by it. Thanks for the opportunity to express my thoughts and to meet with Mr. Bredesen.</p>

Would love to see the south section (south of Browning) of the park open again and available for horseback riding. Also would like to see trail opening on Browning Road widened a little or at least cleaned out so we can get thru with our horses without taking out the sign with our knees. Also could the poles by the trailer area be capped or taken out? Kind of a scary thing when you are up on a horse. And lastly - thank you for taking such wonderful care of this area. I moved to this area because of the area and the amenities that it offers. I walk here every week, I ride my bike here and my horse. It's a beautiful area and I am so very glad that we are allowed to enjoy it. Thank you! P.S. Could you ask the snakes to please stay hidden when I am in the area?

1. Please open the south properties to horseback riding. (South of Browning Rd.) 2. We also need the horse trail openings cleared on the north side of Browning and on Ranson. We would be happy to volunteer to assist with this maintenance. 3. Thank you for allowing us the privilege of riding our horses at James A. Reed. We try to keep the trails clean and exactly how we found them. 4. We also appreciate how safe the trails are for us. (No barbed wire, etc.) 5. It would be safer for us, trail riders, if the old opening on Browning was re-opened. Long ago the opening was close to the cemetery so we didn't have to ride so far down Browning. Some of the cars on Browning go very fast. 6. A noted crossing for horses on Browning would make the driver's aware. 7. K.R. is right about the snakes!

Fix the vegetation in our lakes. More trash cans. Do say one thing, you have enough restrooms. Have someone in the office on the weekends doing office hours. No public boats on the lakes.

Need interpretive bird ID signs in certain areas. Need to accommodate many active birders who use Reed often. Need Birders Night Out/Woodcock Walk Migratory Bird Walks/Spring and Fall. Continue developing walking and hiking trails - very much used. Contact Terrance Thompson- has terrific bird photos taken at Reed. Need recycling bins strategically placed. I'm always picking up trash.

We used to see lots of doves and rabbits. I would like to stop dove hunting until the numbers go up. With all the hunting, you do not appear to be a Wildlife "preserve"! We live on Ranson Road.

I'm very happy to have the archery range close to Lee's Summit. Talked about plans to maintain targets on the trail.

**Appendix 7. Comments received during James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area Idea Gathering Phase (September 1-November 30, 2014).**

Reed is a true gem of a wildlife area that is amazingly close to the city. It's a shame that so much development has happened surrounding the area. The place used to be surrounded by farms, but now urban sprawl has turned that buffer into housing developments. Please continue to allow hunters and fishermen of all kinds to use this area for its original purpose...hunting and fishing!

I and family enjoy Reed very much- but I and users I have talked with agree that if the Dept. or a vendor was on site to sell bait, gear and some concessions could make money for Dept. and serve the public better

I would first like to say I love our public lands!!

Second I will not ever ever hunt our public land!

We need to find some way to teach people ethics of hunting on public lands! I have been walked on, shot at, cussed out for being in someone's spot when no tree stand was hung. Had people set 50 feet from me and smoke talk on their phone about me. So I am sorry to say I will not be hunting on OUR public land!

I've always thought occasional night fishing would be splendid. Your stocking of flathead catfish some years ago hopefully has produced a few monsters in several of the lakes. Maybe you could keep it within given parameters to avoid mischief.

I love to hunt rabbit and dove out there and alot of memories fishing. How about improving on that. Would be nice to see them host more youth activities (outdoor skills classes, hunting/fishing classes, etc.). I see alot closer to the St Louis area but seldom do I see the same type activites for youth or even ladies closer to the KC area

I have been visiting the James a Reed wildlife memorial area since I was a child in the 90s. Now, as a father myself the area is incredibly important in the inspiration of my own child. I sincerely appreciate the vast number of opportunities and a diverse experiences that can be had. My only complaint, and one that is long-standing... Is that far too many drivers speed and drive recklessly in the area not only placing wildlife but also pedestrians, bikers, children, etc in unnecessary and unwarranted danger. Aside from this single complaint I am incredibly satisfied and feel privileged to have such an amazing resource at my family's disposal.

Reed has always been a good spot. Put some trash cans around (more) cause I always see where lazy slobs litter.. I bring it home. Posting 150.00 MINIMUM FINE littering fine signs, with a "citations issued" area (and # issued - real or not) The occasional large dumpster is not realistic, heck I'll even help. Keeping the dove up through plots - quail - pheasant release since there aren't predator problems; By the lakes, small feeder/stock pond that could actually gate link vs levy and muskie / tiger muskie as a REAL treat. Over all, for the amount of use it sees, it is well maintained. Agents are rare and their presence is good, just a ji whats hitting what etc.

good job there and looking forward to this month's event
keep the moss beat down, better crappie fishing, more stocked redear.
Open 24/7 to allow night fishing at James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area
<p>Please allow kayaks, float tubes, canoes, kick boats and other human powered water craft on the lakes. In order to keep from having boat launches require that all water craft must be transported from parking area by hand. no driving up to the shore to launch boats. This would keep impact to the shore line to a minimum.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
<p>First off, I LOVE the James A. Reed Conservation area! :)</p> <p>I only have a few comments, and hopefully some of them could be beneficial or helpful.</p> <p>1 -- A few years ago, Lake Nell had a sign that mentioned that a caretaker/sponsor to clean up, pick up trash, etc. around it was needed. I called the office inquiring about that and was unfortunately never able to get anywhere with the people I called (the guy who was in charge of that 'wasn't in,' and I could never seem to get ahold of, or get a return call from, him). Not throwing anyone under the bus, just saying I really would've been interested in helping out in that way, but was unable to get anywhere with it.</p> <p>2 -- I've done quite a bit of field work for the Forest Fire Lookout Association in researching the current status of the dozens of fire lookout towers in Missouri. Over the recent years, some of these towers have been decommissioned and removed from the state's register/property lists and have been sold off. There are others that will meet the same fate in the coming years as well. I think it would be fantastic (on a variety of levels) to have one of those to be relocated and placed within the J.A.R. Conservation Area! There could be many benefits and uses for it, and with the right amount of asking, I'm sure there could be some companies willing to assist in the removal, relocation and placement of the tower to a new site. This would not only preserve the history of the valuable fire lookout, but would allow visitors to J.A.R. an extraordinary view of the conservation area (and surrounding landscape) and would be a neat draw/attraction for J.A.R.</p> <p>I would love to discuss this in further detail with you if you are interested!</p>
<p>I have hunted Doves at the Reed area a few times. I feel with all of the lead shot that is put on the ground during the Dove hunting that Reed area should go to non-toxic shot for all shotgun hunting. Lead was taken out of paint and gasoline, and banned for waterfowl hunting, years ago. I feel the amount of lead pellets on the ground at the Reed area can't be good for ground feeding birds like Dove, Quail, and songbirds.</p>
<p>We should add waterfowl hunting, in particular goose pit blinds in fields and water blinds. We have an abundance of geese here but limited local opportunity to utilize them.</p>



There are several things that could be done to make the area a better place. First, start with the drive way- it needs to be redone- it is not easy to see with all the brush grown up, plus when trucks with trailers or larger vehicles come in and out there is not much room with the "S" shape that was made. The area, to me, is in desperate need of more maintenance, in the form of a brush hog to clear some of the brush and small growth trees that hamper the viewing of wildlife in the area. The flower beds should have flowers not grown up nasty brush like the rest of the area for example. I remember when I was young my parents taking us kids to the conservation areas and everything was always mowed and landscaped. The number one thing I think would assist in making it a great family place, and know many were upset when the new building was built that there was not anything inside for kids to do like Burr Oak Woods. James A Reed would be a wonderful place for a center for kids and families to come enjoy the day. We love the path in the back of the area also but wish there were more "woodland" paths that were carved out for hikers also. I hope my suggestions assist in making the area a better place for the Lee's Summit and surrounding communities.

I suggest that you open it up for more deer hunting extended opportunities and lengths of seasons - perhaps open it up for Bow Season for the entire season. Also more muzzleloading opportunities as well.

This is an excellent hunt. You all do a heck of a job. MO Conservation Dept is a heck of a class act--I'm proud to live in MO. You all are a big part of that. I'd like to see a morning hunt that maybe quit at noon or 1:00.

Maybe just a little bit more handicap access.

Rec mowing outside field couple strips.

Great job managing the area. Keep up the good work. Consider making one lake a trophy lake.

As you already have some vending machines here and as animals that are harvested here, hooked or shot are often processed here, I believe that an ice machine would be handy for your patrons and most likely profitable for your vendors.

Please put up signs to "Not Litter"

I really enjoy the nature at James A. Reed, and lately I am just disgusted by the amount of trash left everywhere.

Thank You!

I enjoy the hiking trails where I walk or run. I also mountain bike. Hikers, runners, equestrians and cyclists can share the same trails without conflict. There are many parks in the KC area where this occurs regularly. JA Reed could develop more trails for these activities.

I enjoy just taking off on a run or bike ride in the more wilderness areas also. I feel if there

were more groomed trails others would enjoy what I do about JA Reed.

I have been going to JA Reed for over 20 years. Keep up the good work.

I spend a lot of time at this area both fishing and riding bike. The only suggestion I have is to keep the grass mowed on the multi-purpose trails. Sometimes they are almost impassible on bike, and often my back sprockets are wrapped with grass and weeds to the point I have to stop and pull the trash out of the sprockets because they won't spin any more. When freshly mown, the trails are a blast and the paved loop is great for biking also. Can't catch a fish out there to save my life, but I'll keep trying.

Hard copy (9/26/2014) "With all due respect, this area used to be kept very neat. With a little effort the grass around the lakes could be mowed a little more often, and when they are, you could mow them down to 5" high instead of 10" high--It don't cost any more. Also you could mow the water's edge, like they used to. There is lots more that could be done to take care of the people who buy permits to fish, etc, etc. Thank you."

I really appreciate the work to pave and pour the 'inner' road. I sometimes take my 'road' bicycle out and enjoy the 3 mile loop that can be made on solid, smooth surfaces.

I sometimes hike the area, and would really appreciate the Conservation Department following through with a plan to promote Quail habitat and restoring the population in the state. It would be fun to be startled by a covey flushing on a cool morning or evening walk..

Overall a very good job is done with the area and I would really like to see more students and R-7 take advantage of the opportunities.

ONE idea that I would also like to see is a connector up to Ranson Road, whether a sidewalk or multi-use trail, and I think the City of LS would be willing to work on this as well, it may be an ideal grant project...

Also, the possibility of the Katy Trail coming all the way to LS, and probably near this property might also want to be considered in the long-range planning.

Thanks again for everything you do!

Hello. I am a person that loves the outdoors and wildlife. My passions include archery, hunting and fishing to name a few. Places to do these activities around Lees Summit seem few and far between to me sometimes as I don't personally own my own land. Having James A Reed Wildlife as one of these possible areas is very important to me. I really enjoy the archery range. I like to catch fish there. And would like to be able to hunt there although I haven't been selected for any managed hunts yet. I can't wait until my daughter is born in December and gets old enough that I can share these things with her as well. Thank you for this opportunity to voice our opinions about the area!

Sincerely,

Allow water fowl hunting in the crop fields along with the ponds
<p>The area has many hunting and fishing opportunities that are excellently managed for, but due to area regulations, the area gets underused. I would suggest a bit more liberalization of the local regs to provide more opportunities for more users. Providing partner programs with the local school districts and conservation associations (Ducks Unltd, Trout Unltd, Wild Turkey Fed, Quail/Pheasants forever, MHHF, BASS...Etc). Offer more youth only fishing and hunting seasons for the area.</p> <p>Other area recreation opportunities could improve from better trail or map marking of distances or distance markers.</p> <p>Cyclists could benefit from designated mtn bike trails.</p> <p>Thanks for providing a great public use area.</p>
<p>1. More volunteer opportunities for familys and kids. I would like to see lake cleanup day a once a month or something like that. I fish out there quite a bit and seems a lot of trash. I try to always pick up some trash with my family but would like to see a more involved volunteer opportunity.</p> <p>2.two separate managed hunts. I think maybe a split managed hunt. one for the back area(area off of 150) and one for up front so that area can be completely closed to provide better opportunity for the hunters.</p>
<p>My husband and I go out there to go fishing and to take our dogs for a walk. The scary part, every fall, is all the crazy hunters out there that are shooting while we are walking around the lakes or off threw the brush if it's too cool for the dogs to be in the water. We are constantly hoping and praying not to get shot! Are those people supposed to be out there shooting while people are out there walking? And if so, how insane is that? And if not, WHY ARE THEY? Thanks for all you do! We love to go out there every change we get!</p>
<p>Open up 1 or 2 of the lakes to float tubes/kayaks etc. No boats or motors. Hearing guns while fishing is a little disconcerting. Could the hunting vs. fishing be timed so that they happen at separate times.</p>
<p>more habitat- ZERO corn! wetlands for shorebirds.</p>
<p>Please cut the grass more often and cut the water edge. Also cut it a little closer to the ground. Thanks.</p>
<p>I would like someone to build a walking/bike riding path between the dog park on Ranson Rd and the JAR entrance. There are thousands of citizens that would ride their bikes or walk in JAR if they could get there safely. There aren't any sholders or paths on Ranson Rd.</p> <p>Also, when is the comment period closing?</p>

Please add pedestrian use camping sites. Please add a connecting pedestrian road from waterfowl marsh to either Smart Rd or Ranson Rd; more hiking trails, non-paved.

Show Me Missouri Back Country Horsemen commends MDC for the excellent, extensive multi-use trail network on James Reed WLA. This affords countless outdoor recreation and nature experience opportunities to the citizens of Missouri and the Greater Kansas City Area. SMMBCH offers to partner with the Department to maintain and improve these trails. In addition we believe there is an excellent opportunity to expand the trail network to include a large loop on the south tract. Utilizing existing access roads and field borders and making a few carefully located crossings of watercourses would create a nice, long loop with a minimum of installation effort. SMMBCH would offer, subject to available resources, to assist to layout and construct the new trail loop.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

This area has made significant progress in recent years. Any effort to encourage a bait shop in the area would be welcomed by anglers who frequent this area.

I'd like to see the old gate at the former main entrance left open for quicker and easier access for wanting to make a short trip through JAR, or to see if horse trailers and horses are in the area. I'd like to see JAR utilize the old headquarters as their headquarters and let the district office use the new building for state business. The new building is nice but sterile and the old building has tons of character and charm. I enjoy the mixed use of the area and that lots of horses can be seen at times. I think you're getting better at removing the bushes along the roadways so that more wildlife can be seen while driving through the area. I think the Archery Range needs more shooting lanes. Thanks for a nice area...but I think it can be better by bringing back some of the old stuff.

I would like to see the area improved for retriever field trials and hunt tests. The wildlife code only allows for this type of use on a small number of Conservation Areas. The Reed area has been allowed to become nearly unusable for this purpose. Recently, many improvements have been made on the Busch area. I also understand that many more improvements are planned. I hope similar improvements can be made to the Reed area allowing once again the possibility to have access to quality public trialing/training grounds on this side of the state.

I really enjoy hiking and birding in the various habitats at James A. Reed MWA. We find raptors, shore birds, warblers, a variety of sparrows, and many kinds of songbirds. It brings our friends and family together for healthy fun outside.

We also enjoy Sunday drives around the area with family that cannot walk well. We look for birds like snowgeese, rabbits, and deer. Again it is a healthy outdoor experience. The property is well maintained and looks very good. The roads are good too.

The office and nature center are well managed. The front native plant garden is delightful and very well maintained. Deb the manager, and Larry Rizzo have been great about providing events and information. The managed hunts and fishing events are very good. I have participated as a Missouri Master Naturalist is teaching kids to fish in the ponds at MDC special events.

Suggestion: I would like to see MDC provide guided interpretive hikes for plant identification, and field trips.

Allow anglers with small watercraft/trolling motor access to Reed Wildlife Area lakes; also a annual

user fee permit would increase revenue and reduce expenses at this location.

Myself as others would prefer to fish from their own property since the watercraft would already have proper Mo.numbers/permits.

Please consider,

Thankyou

I am a regular and year round user of the Archery Range and being such I know of others who also use the range as I do. Additionally there are probably two 3-4 month periods when the range is very well used by many.

Since the range is such a popular feature at James A. Reed, I wonder why it is not better maintained. There are several targets in need of replacement. It seems to me that target maintenance shouldn't be a large expense.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide input.

I work in Lee's Summit, and am an activity director that just brought out a group of disabled adults to walk on the trail last Wednesday. I hope you would continue to make this kind of use a priority. I think that there is a great need to preserve our wild lands, places we can still view wildlife, and have a retreat from the noises and concrete of the city.

In addition, as a child I would visit the park frequently with my grandfather to fish, so I hope that JAR Memorial wildlife area remains a resource for fishing.

Making lakes accessible for conservation dept Boats that don't leave the lakes. oars and life jackets could be checked out at the office.

Native fish aquariums like what is on displayed at the State Fair, but on a smaller venue.

Have special days for handicap fishing from pontoon boats. These could be used for intercity fishing for kids that normally don't ever even get on a boat.

Please share with all appropriate and interested parties.

Bicycles should not be allowed in any natural area. They are inanimate objects and have no rights. There is also no right to mountain bike. That was settled in federal court in 1996: <http://mjvande.nfshost.com/mtb10.htm> . It's dishonest of mountain bikers to say that they don't have access to trails closed to bikes. They have EXACTLY the same access as everyone else -- ON FOOT! Why isn't that good enough for mountain bikers? They are all capable of walking....

A favorite myth of mountain bikers is that mountain biking is no more harmful to wildlife, people, and the environment than hiking, and that science supports that view. Of course, it's not true. To settle the matter once and for all, I read all of the research they cited, and wrote a review of the research on mountain biking impacts (see <http://mjvande.nfshost.com/scb7.htm> ). I found that of the seven studies they cited, (1) all were written by mountain bikers, and (2) in every case, the authors misinterpreted their own data, in order to come to the conclusion that they favored. They also studiously avoided mentioning another scientific study (Wisdom et al) which did not favor mountain biking, and came to

the opposite conclusions.

Those were all experimental studies. Two other studies (by White et al and by Jeff Marion) used a survey design, which is inherently incapable of answering that question (comparing hiking with mountain biking). I only mention them because mountain bikers often cite them, but scientifically, they are worthless.

Mountain biking accelerates erosion, creates V-shaped ruts, kills small animals and plants on and next to the trail, drives wildlife and other trail users out of the area, and, worst of all, teaches kids that the rough treatment of nature is okay (it's NOT!). What's good about THAT?

To see exactly what harm mountain biking does to the land, watch this 5-minute video:  
<http://vimeo.com/48784297>.

In addition to all of this, it is extremely dangerous: [http://mjvande.nfshost.com/mtb\\_dangerous.htm](http://mjvande.nfshost.com/mtb_dangerous.htm) .

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The common thread among those who want more recreation in our parks is total ignorance about and disinterest in the wildlife whose homes these parks are. Yes, if humans are the only beings that matter, it is simply a conflict among humans (but even then, allowing bikes on trails harms the MAJORITY of park users -- hikers and equestrians -- who can no longer safely and peacefully enjoy their parks).

The parks aren't gymnasiums or racetracks or even human playgrounds. They are WILDLIFE HABITAT, which is precisely why they are attractive to humans. Activities, such as mountain biking, that destroy habitat, violate the charter of the parks.

Even kayaking and rafting, which give humans access to the entirety of a water body, prevent the wildlife that live there from making full use of their habitat, and should not be allowed. Of course those who think that only humans matter won't understand what I am talking about -- an indication of the sad state of our culture and educational system.

I would like to see more hiking paths.

Love the way the horse trails are maintained; the area needs horse trails south of Browning Road; can there be a different type of lock on the privy near the trailer parking--sometimes it seems to be locked from the inside and is not usable.

It used to be mowed much better and was better to walk our dogs out around the ponds and areas... Now it's only half mowed half the time. Means more issues and harder to manage. It's a shame for sure.

I believe you need to go back to feeding and restocking the Catfish lakes like you used to do. I think there is too much attention to the trout lakes. Not everybody is Trout fisherman. I have fished out here for over 40 years and this is the worst fishing for Catfish that I have seen. I would hope you all could fix this problem. Respectfully.

Allow canoeing/kayaking on one lake.

Someone needs to be responsible for picking up the horse poop from the roadways so people don't step in it. Maybe a training program for the walkers on not to step in fresh horse manure might be helpful.



Great program today. Hope there are more of them.
Let the frees fall natrally. Just cut off the trail.
Need another agent in Northern Cass County.
Enjoy the dove hunting program. Good accessibility to the area. Don't fish here but a lot of anglers I talk to enjoy fishing here.
To stop unwanted vandalism. The entrance off Smart road in Greenwood should be gated and closed when the park is closed as the rest of the park is gated. I am not sure a range should be this close to homes.
<p>I want to see the continuation of the muzzle loader hunt and the trout fishing. The dove hunting is a great tradition but its so hard to enjoy with the crowds. I would like to see more waterfowl opportunities for occasional duck hunters like me. I don't have a boat and blind. I would like to see permanent blinds like Schell Osage or Montrose for both duck and goose hunting. I really miss duck hunting but I can't hunt the waterfowl areas any more because I don't have any way to get to the blinds.</p> <p>This is a great conservation area and hats off to the Department for keeping it going.</p>
<p>First I would like to express my thanks for running a great conservation area. My family and I visit JAR frequently to walk the trails, play in the fields, or fish. Our 4 year old son enjoys catching frogs and insects around the various ponds and playing in the creek. I know a number of friends and relatives who also enjoy fishing or walking the trails as well.</p> <p>One of the things I would like to see is an update to the trail map and trail markings on at least some of the trails. I have used a GPS tracker to trace roughly 50% of the trails on the conservation area and would offer that data if MDC does not have the data or the resources to gather it.</p> <p>Another idea would be more programming at JAR. I have seen little use of the facility for public classes or outreach. The building is closed on weekends and even when open offers little in the way of interaction.</p> <p>Again, thanks to all of MDC for the great work they do. We are proud to have such an organization in our state and we utilize MDC lands regularly for recreation and education.</p>
<p>Bicycles should not be allowed in any natural area. They are inanimate objects and have no rights. There is also no right to mountain bike. That was settled in federal court in 1996: <a href="http://mjvande.nfshost.com/mtb10.htm">http://mjvande.nfshost.com/mtb10.htm</a> . It's dishonest of mountain bikers to say that they don't have access to trails closed to bikes. They have EXACTLY the same access as everyone else -- ON FOOT! Why isn't that good enough for mountain bikers? They are all capable of walking....</p> <p>A favorite myth of mountain bikers is that mountain biking is no more harmful to wildlife, people, and the environment than hiking, and that science supports that view. Of course, it's not true. To settle the matter once and for all, I read all of the research they cited, and wrote a review of the research on mountain biking impacts (see <a href="http://mjvande.nfshost.com/scb7.htm">http://mjvande.nfshost.com/scb7.htm</a> ). I found that of the seven studies they cited, (1) all were written by mountain bikers, and (2) in every case, the authors misinterpreted their own data, in order to come to the conclusion that they favored. They also studiously avoided mentioning another scientific study (Wisdom et al) which did not favor mountain biking, and came to</p>

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